

CLAIMS

What is Claimed

1. A method of booting a computer, comprising the steps of:
 - 5 emulating a floppy drive communicatively coupled to the computer in a token via a USB-compliant interface; andbooting the computer using the token.
 2. The method of claim 1, wherein step of booting the computer using a boot up sequence comprises the steps of:
 - 10 reading a password from the token;
 - unlocking a hard drive using the password;
 - reading a boot-up sequence from a master boot record stored on the hard drive;and
 - 15 executing said boot-up sequence.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the password is an ATA-3 password.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the password is stored as a file in the emulated floppy drive.
 - 20 5. The method of claim 2, wherein the password is stored in a secure memory of the token.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of reading the password from the token comprises the steps of:

prompting the user for a identifier;

authenticating a user-provided identifier; and

5 reading the password only if the user-provided identifier is authenticated;

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the user-provided identifier comprises a user password.

10 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the user-provided identifier comprises a biometric data.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the biometric data comprises a fingerprint.

15 10. The method of claim 2, wherein the computer is controlled by an operating system after the computer is booted and the method further comprises the steps of:
automatically ceasing emulating the floppy drive after the computer is booted; and
authenticating the user using the token and the operating system and data stored or entered into the computer after the computer is booted.

20 11. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of disabling the emulation of the floppy drive.

25 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of booting the computer using a boot up sequence comprises the steps of:
reading a boot up sequence from the token; and
performing the boot up sequence.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of:
automatically ceasing emulating the floppy drive after the computer is booted.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:
5 authenticating the user using the token and the operating system and data stored or
entered into the computer after the computer is booted.

15. An apparatus for booting a computer, comprising:
means for emulating a floppy drive communicatively coupled to the computer in a
10 token via a USB-compliant interface; and
means for booting the computer using the token.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein means for booting the computer using
a boot up sequence comprises:

15 means for reading a password from the token;
means for unlocking a hard drive using the password;
means for reading a boot-up sequence from a master boot record stored on the
hard drive; and
means for executing said boot-up sequence.

20 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the password is an ATA-3 password.

18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the password is stored as a file in the
emulated floppy drive.

25 19. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the password is stored in a secure
memory of the token.

20. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the means for reading the password from the token comprises:

means for prompting the user for a identifier;
means for authenticating a user-provided identifier; and
5 means for reading the password only if the user-provided identifier is authenticated;

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the user-provided identifier comprises a user password.

10

22. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the user-provided identifier comprises a biometric data.

15

23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the biometric data comprises a fingerprint.

24. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the computer is controlled by an operating system after the computer is booted and the apparatus further comprises:

means for automatically ceasing emulating the floppy drive after the computer is 20 booted; and

means for authenticating the user using the token and the operating system and data stored or entered into the computer after the computer is booted.

25. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising means for disabling the 25 emulation of the floppy drive.

26. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the means for booting the computer using a boot up sequence comprises:

means for reading a boot up sequence from the token; and
means for performing the boot up sequence.

5

27. The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising:
means for automatically ceasing emulating the floppy drive after the computer is booted.

10

28. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising:
means for authenticating the user using the token and the operating system and data stored or entered into the computer after the computer is booted.

15

29. A token, comprising:
an input/output (I/O) interface communicatively coupleable to a computer;
a processor, communicatively coupled to the I/O interface; and
a memory, communicatively coupled to the processor, the memory for storing a plurality of processor instructions to emulate a floppy drive communicatively coupled to the computer, and for booting the computer using the token.

20

30. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein processor commands for booting the computer using a boot up sequence comprises:

at least one processor command for reading a password from the token;
25 at least one processor command for unlocking a hard drive using the password;
at least one processor command for reading a boot-up sequence from a master boot record stored on the hard drive; and
at least one processor command for executing said boot-up sequence.

31. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the password is an ATA-3 password.
32. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the password is stored as a file in the
5 emulated floppy drive.
33. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the password is stored in a secure
memory of the token.
- 10 34. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the at least one processor command for
reading the password from the token comprises:
 - at least one processor command for prompting the user for a identifier;
 - at least one processor command for authenticating a user-provided identifier; and
 - at least one processor command for reading the password only if the user-provided
15 identifier is authenticated;
35. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the user-provided identifier comprises
a user password.
- 20 36. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the user-provided identifier comprises
a biometric data.
37. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the biometric data comprises a
fingerprint.

38. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the computer is controlled by an operating system after the computer is booted and wherein the plurality of processor commands comprises:

5 at least one processor command for automatically ceasing emulating the floppy drive after the computer is booted; and

at least one processor command for authenticating the user using the token and the operating system and data stored or entered into the computer after the computer is booted.

10 39. The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising means for disabling the emulation of the floppy drive.

40. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the processor commands for booting the computer using a boot up sequence comprises:

15 at least one processor command for reading a boot up sequence from the token; and

at least one processor command for performing the boot up sequence.

41. The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the emulation of the floppy drive is 20 automatically ceased after the computer is booted.

42. The apparatus of claim 41, further comprising:

at least one processor command for authenticating the user using the token and the operating system and data stored or entered into the computer after the computer is 25 booted using the token.